



Refer To: Request Number. **2019-00709-FOIA-OS**

**March 18, 2019**

Paul Gottinger  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR 65521  
411A Highland Ave.  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Gottinger:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated, January 24, 2019. Your request, CDC FOIA 19-00388 was referred to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and received in this office on **March 15, 2019**. You requested the following:

***“...any and all talking points and similar memorandums, emails, and transcripts providing advice or direction on how to handle the media, media interviews, and statements used by personal employed by or working for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which relates to the US government shutdown. (Date Range for Record Search: From 12/22/2018 to 3/18/2019)”.***

This office is in the process of reviewing your request and/or responsive records, which originated or exist within the HHS, Office of the Secretary (OS). If there is reason to believe that a search for responsive records should be performed regarding your referred request, your request will be forwarded to the appropriate OS program office to perform a search for responsive records.

Please note the following:

If you believe that we should expedite the processing of your request because the requested records are needed in light of a compelling need; i.e., an imminent threat to the life and safety of an individual; an urgency to inform the public concerning government activity (provided you are a member of the media); a deadline in litigation; a deadline for commenting on proposed regulations; or other urgent matters, you must ask for expedited processing in writing and provide to this office as much relevant information as possible. In line with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(E)(vi), you must demonstrate the compelling need in a statement certified to be true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief. Attach any supporting documentation to your statement, including a court scheduling order if your request is based upon a litigation deadline. (Fax supporting documentation to the FOIA/PA Division at (202) 690-8320).

If your request seeks a waiver or reduction of the fees that we would customarily charge for furnishing agency records and your request does not contain sufficient information to enable us to determine whether a waiver or reduction of fees is warranted, you should provide such information to this office within 10 working days of receipt of this letter. In line with 45 C.F.R. § 5.45, such

information must include a detailed explanation of how disclosure to you: (1) is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government, and (2) is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. I especially need to know how you intend to disseminate the information to the public.

When submitting this additional information, please refer to the case number listed at the top left-hand corner of this letter, and send it to:

FOI/Privacy Acts Division  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Room 729H  
Washington, DC 20201

Any questions regarding the status of this request should be directed to our office at 202-690-7453.

If you are not satisfied with any aspect of the processing and handling of this request, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from:

Michael Marquis  
Director, FOI/Privacy Acts Division  
Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs (ASPA)  
Office of the Secretary (OS)  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)  
Room 729H  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Telephone: (202) 260-7100  
E-mail: [HHS\\_FOIA\\_Public\\_Liaison@hhs.gov](mailto:HHS_FOIA_Public_Liaison@hhs.gov)

and/or:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740-6001

Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Toll-Free: 1-877-684-6448  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Fax: 202-741-5769

Sincerely yours,



Michael S. Marquis  
Director  
FOI/Privacy Acts Division